

STATISTICAL SNAPSHOT OF AMERICAN WOMEN

The Equality Amendment: An Important Step Forward For Women

Women: A Statistical Snapshot

- There are 6 million more women in the United States than men; women are 51 percent of the population.
- 61 percent of women age 16 and over are in the civilian labor force (March 2000).
- The projected life expectancy for women in 2000 is 80 years.
- 14 percent of the US military personnel are women. There are 38 women generals and flag officers serving on active duty.
- There are 61 women Members of Congress, 13 women Senators and 2 Supreme Court Justices who are women.
- 56 percent of bachelor's degrees, 57 percent of masters' degrees, 44 percent of law degrees, 41 percent of medical degrees and 41 percent of doctorates were awarded to women in 1997.
- In 1999, there were 9.1 million women-owned businesses in the United States, employing over 27.5 million people and generating 3.6 trillion in sales.

WAGE INEQUALITY PERSISTS IN THE 21ST CENTURY, AND IT AFFECTS MEN AS WELL AS WOMEN

- The gender wage gap has not changed much in recent years, and women currently earn only 72.8 percent as much as men.
- Thirty-three million men have working wives, and married women and their families lose an average of \$4,205 a year because of women's lower wages.
- In more than one-fourth of these marriages, the wife earns more than her husband. These families are especially dependent on the wife's earnings, even though she is very likely to suffer from discrimination.
- Men's earnings are lower when they work in female-dominated occupations - by an average of \$6,259 per year.

**WOMEN HAVE MOVED INTO THE WORKFORCE,
BUT THEY HAVEN'T BEEN ALLOWED INTO THE BOARDROOM**

- Only 9 percent of board members of media, telecom, and high-tech firms are women.
- Only 3 percent of executives from media, telecom and e-companies were women with 'Clout Titles,' including Chairman, Chief Executive Officer and Vice President.
- Women-owned firms get only 2 percent of all venture capital investments.
- Only 4 percent of the highest-ranking corporate officers are women.
- Less than 3 percent of federal contracts go to women-owned firms.

**DISCRIMINATION THROUGHOUT THE LIFE CYCLE
MAKES OLDER WOMEN MORE VULNERABLE**

- The poverty rate of older women is nearly twice as high as that of older men. Nearly one in every seven women aged 75 and older is poor.
- The pension gap is even larger than the earnings gap: retired women are only half as likely as men to receive any kind of pension.

Sources: Institute for Women's Policy Research, U.S. Census Bureau, Department of Defense, National Foundation of Women Business Owners, Annenberg Public Policy Center of the University of Pennsylvania

Prepared by the Office of Congresswoman Carolyn B. Maloney , March 11, 2003